Hot Topic Session 9:

Family Engagement in Distance Learning: Exemplars from the Field

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Session Topics

1. The Value of Family Engagement in Developing a Distance Learning Program

2. Connecting to the Community Engagement Initiative to Distance Learning Initiatives

3. Exploring Family Engagement Models to Leverage Distance Learning Outcomes

Family Engagement and Distance Learning

Effective student and family engagement relies on establishing trusting relationships in which educators, students, and their parents see themselves and each other as equal partners.

Without opportunities to interact in person, it is now more difficult and also more important to build and maintain these strong relationships.

West Ed 2020

Connecting to the CEI

The Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) is a five-year effort intended to strengthen the System of Support by building the capacity of school districts to authentically engage one another. *Community Engagement Initiative*

Observing Family Engagement Models Using the Instructional Rounds Protocol

Before Viewing

- Invite essential partners and stakeholders and partners to participate
- Identify purpose for viewing
- Prioritize any goals or areas of need to be addressed

During Viewing

- Provide any necessary translation services that are necessary for equitable participation
- Observe evidence based practices
- Observe roles for leaders, staff, parents, partners, etc

After Viewing

- Reflect on observed models
- Determine practices that have contextual fit
- Discuss steps in development and implementation

Exploring Models of Family Engagement

1. **OBSERVE**

2. **DISCUSS**

3. **STRATEGIZE**

PATTERNS
- 5/6 classrooms had meaningful feedback from the teacher
- 5/6 classrooms had collaborative structures in place.
- 6/6 classrooms had learning targets posted
- 5/6 classrooms had differentiated learning tasks

CONTRASTS
- 1/6 classroom teachers referred back to the L.T. during the lesson
- 3/6 classrooms facilitated student → student collaboration
- 3/6 classrooms had evidence of quality questioning

PREDICTIONS
- If teachers provide meaningful feedback, then students will draw conclusions on their own.
- If structures for collaboration are in place, students will be preparing today for tomorrow.
- If L.T. are used and referred throughout lessons, then students will have greater ownership of their learning.

QUESTIONS
- What are some ways students can connect back to L.T.s?
- How do you determine what is "fair" for students in terms of differentiated instruction?
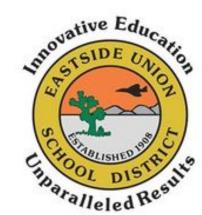- What type of resources and support systems will teachers need to implement and improve "differentiated inst."?

Community Engagement Initiative
Cohort 1 Model Districts

Take-Away Task

Exploring Models of Family Engagement:

❏ Develop an integrated Distance Learning Program with your Family Engagement Plan

❏ Identify essential strategies to engage families in Distance Learning

❏ Leverage Back to School Night and Open House virtual events to provide essential information to families

❏ Make a plan to schedule at least one individual check in appointment with families

❏ Identify school and community organizations that can provide responsive support to families

❏ Attend school events where families will be present and engaged

❏ Explore ways to encourage and recognize positive family efforts and experiences

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